

REMARKS

Applicants note that the due date for responding to the outstanding Office Action is Saturday, July 11, 2009. Thus, this Amendment is being timely filed.

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the present application in view of the foregoing amendments to the specification and claims and the following remarks.

Status of the Claims

In the present Amendment, claims 1 and 12 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Also, claims 2-11 have been amended and claims 13-17 have been added. Thus, claims 1-11 and 13-17 are pending in the present application.

No new matter has been added by way of these amendments because each amendment is supported by the present specification. For example, the amendment to claim 2 incorporates the subject matter of claim 1. The other amendments correct grammatical and minor errors and are not narrowing in scope. By deleting/amending these terms in order to clarify the claimed invention (e.g., "A method" to "The method"), Applicants are in no way conceding any limitations with respect to the interpretation of the claims under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

No new matter has been added with claims 13-17. These claims are derived from the preferred embodiments or ranges in claims 3, 4, and 10.

No new matter has been added with the amendments to the specification. The incorporated language comes from the cited claims.

Amendments and Reply to Restriction Requirement

Based upon the above considerations, entry of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

Restriction Requirement

The Examiner has required election in the present application between Groups I-III as stated on pages 2-3 of the Office Action. **For the purpose of examination of the present application, Applicants elect, with traverse, Group II, Claims 2-9, drawn to a method of manufacturing a product.** Applicants note that the claims have been amended such that all claims now conform to the elected subject matter.

Applicants traverse since based on the reasoning set forth in paragraph 2 of the Office Action, it appears that once the present invention is found to have a novel feature, that all claims, including product claims, that share the same feature are allowable.

Other Matters and Contact Information

As a side note, Applicants note the Examiner's comments at the top of page 2 of the Office Action. However, Applicants note that claim 10 depends on claim 5, which is also a method claim and thus request reconsideration.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Eugene T. Perez, Registration No. 48,501, at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Application No.: 10/573,028

Docket No.: 0365-0669PUS1

Art Unit 1793

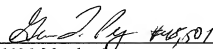
Amendments and Reply to Restriction Requirement

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: July 13, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

By


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